(c) Details of measures taken by Government are given below:

(1) the Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Power have jointly put in place umpires to settle the disputes between the State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and the coal companies of CIL.

(2) Government of India formulated a securitization scheme to settle the outstanding coal sale dues of SEBs upto the period 30.09.2001.

(3) A system of Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) has been initiated to take care of issues like Sampling, Weighment and Quality of coal.

Rates of royalty on coal

†789. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested the Government of India for reconsideration of rates on coal royalty on the basis of *ad valorem;*

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the increase in market price of coal during the last five years; and

(d) whether rates of royalty on coal have been increased by 10 to 15 per cent only over the last ten years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has written to the Central Government that in the financial interest of the State, royalty rates on coal may be fixed on *ad valorem* basis.

(c) The average percentage increase in pithead price for all grades of coal over the last five years has been 25.07%.

(d) The average percentage increase in royalty on coal taking into account the upward revision effected on 11.10.1994 and 16.8.2002, has been 24.68%.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.